face of declining traffic and increasing financial deficit.

(c) Mumbai Port being very old port is not favourably placed to compete with JNPT in handling containers.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Cars by Mumbai Port Trust

2981. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mumbai Port Trust is smuggling cars through illegal way and selling them in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that such illegal transported cars have been confiscated at Mumbai; and

(c) if so, the action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Mumbai Port Trust is not involved in smuggling of cars. However, instances have come to light that imported cars parked in the premises of Mumbai Port have been stolen replacing them with old cars and sold in the country.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some of the stolen cars have been recovered and kept in their custody by Mumbai Police.

(c) The matter is being invested by the Mumbai Police. Vigil and security have been increased in and around the warehouses where containers containing imported cars are stored.

Port Connectivity Project

2982. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a huge Port-Connectivity Project for connecting all major ports in the country to the nearest National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total money sanctioned for the project;